



Y. M. Offret's little children's train at Wildwood in 1945(Bertha McKean Offret foto).

various families involved drew lots to determine the location of individual cabin sites. Part of the area was laid out for cabins, while the area nearest the highway was set aside for recreation such as tennis and softball. In the first couple of years, the various families set up tents, some with wooden floors. Then slowly the cabins were built.

Much later in time, there was a service station built next to the highway ran by a Frenchman named Y. M. Offret. He was the caretaker of Wildwood who lived in the stone house near the community entrance. He came to Wildwood in 1929, after spending some time leasing the Cliff Inn service station at the mouth of the canyon.

Soon after arriving at Wildwood, Offret built a service station and store. Over a period of years he built a number of other improvements to the place. He had a small childrens railroad that ran in and around the lower part of Wildwood, and he had a perpetual motion water wheel and tap which never ran out of water. These frustrated many passersby. The small store was run by his wife. Offret lived at Wildwood for 38 years until his death in 1967. After that the Wildwood Association members decided to tear down the service station and store a year or two after his death.

In the beginning, the road up North Fork went right up the middle of Wildwood, but as the crowds going to the Timp Hike got bigger, the association of cabin owners asked the county to build the road on the other side of the creek, which is about where it is today. Today, many of the cabin owners are descendants of the original members.